



Clarifying Inaccurate Information

Iowa Communications Network (ICN) would like to clarify information included in recent news articles, which may have caused some confusion, relating to the sale or lease of the ICN.

- The Iowa Telecommunications and Technology Commission (ITTC), ICN's governing body, was instructed by the legislature through House File 45, during the 2011 legislative session, to write a request for proposal (RFP) to determine if there is interest in purchasing or leasing the ICN from an outside vendor.
 - **This does NOT mean that the ICN will be sold or leased. It means that the ITTC is required to complete the necessary due diligence to determine if there is interest from an outside provider to purchase or lease the ICN.**
- The ITTC has two years to complete the RFP process, which provides a completion deadline of June 30, 2013 (extension made by House File 646). All decisions must be approved by the legislature and approved by the governor, which means the final conclusion will not occur until the legislature is back in session, beginning in January, 2014.

After the RFP is released, bidding information is received, scored, reviewed, and recommended by the ITTC to the Governor, AND if it is determined that there is interest to purchase the Network, customers' rates will be maintained, since a requirement of the RFP is to offer services currently provided by the ICN at lower overall long-term cost.

What is the purpose of the RFP Implementation Team (RIT)?

The purpose is to receive and record input from a broad range of stakeholders to be used in the creation of a *Foundational Assumptions* document that will form the basis of the RFP for sale or lease of the ICN. To construct an RFP, specific *Foundational Assumptions* must be verified.

The RFP Assumption Proofing Process is solely intended to provide a structured, fair, open, transparent, and documented environment in which specific foundational assumptions will be clarified and hardened for submission to ITTC / Governor's Office for approval to use in constructing an RFP to comply with House File 45. The RIT team do not have 'voting' rights, and do not have the authority to specify RFP attributes.

As long as the RIT is meeting, the *Foundational Assumptions* document will be constantly updated. To view the document visit www.icn.state.ia.us/itc/RFPImplementationTeam.

Why is the ITTC requesting input from specific stakeholders?

The creation of the team is critical, and the team is tasked with providing advice regarding the specific definitions and assumptions for current unidentified aspects of the House File 45 legislation. The team will develop and execute a project plan to address transparency and the time sensitive requirements of the legislation. The creation of the RIT is necessary to ensure the RFP is completed on time.

Who are the Stakeholders involved in the process?

- Iowa Telecommunications and Technology Commission
- Governor's Office / Iowa Department of Management
- Judicial Branch
- Iowa Hospital Association

Frequently Asked Questions

RFP (Request for Proposal) Implementation Team (RIT)



- Office of the Auditor of State
- Office of the Attorney General
- Iowa Department of Public Safety
- Iowa Department of Education
- Iowa Community Colleges
- Republican House Caucus
- Republican Senate Caucus
- Democrat House Caucus
- Democrat Senate Caucus

Why is there not a representative from the private telecommunications industry on the team?

Due to the State of Iowa's bidding process, a representative from the private telecommunications industry is unable to participate as a RIT member, since their participation would create a conflict of interest, and therefore the company would be ineligible to submit a bid. However, members of the industry have attended the public meetings and posed questions to the team.

What final deliverable will the ITTC receive from the RIT team?

The RIT will provide a comprehensive document outlining all discussion and input throughout the RIT *Assumption Proofing Process*, which will be considered by the ITTC when finalizing the actual *Foundational Assumptions* that will be used in construction of the RFP for sale or lease of the ICN. The comprehensive information will tentatively include:

- Stakeholder discussion feedback documentation
- Stakeholder preference documentation
- Stakeholder participation documentation

What is the timeline to comply with House File 45?

The below information is an estimated timeline for milestones to comply with House File 45. The timeline was submitted by Fiberutilities Group, who is a neutral party, and was retained by the ITTC as the Project Manager for sale or lease of the ICN RFP construction and management.

Project Milestone	Schedule To Be Completed By
RIT Formation and Proofing of Assumptions	1-Feb-12
Creation of an executable Project Plan for RFP	1-Mar-12
Detailed data gathering / analysis and RFP formatting	31-Dec-12
Final approval of "ready to post RFP" for sale or lease of the ICN	31-Jan-13
Posting, data management, and compliance monitoring to accept bids in response to the RFP	15-Mar-13
Organization of bid response data and response scoring by ITTC	15-May-13
Documentation of final IGOV recommendation(s) for action based on offers made.	30-Jun-13
Compliance with House File 45 project is complete	30-Jun-13

Note: ITTC reserves the rights to modify the timeline.

Where can I get additional information?

For additional RIT information visit www.icn.state.ia.us/itc/RFPImplementationTeam or contact Jontell Harris, ICN's Executive Liaison, at 515-725-1102 or Jontell.Harris@iowa.gov.